

ANNIE MCCARTHY.

APRIL 24, 1884.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BAGLEY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1030.]

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1030) for the relief of Annie McCarthy, widow of George P. McCarthy, having considered the same, beg leave to make the following report:*

This case is one of peculiar hardship. The husband of the petitioner, after faithfully serving his country in the Army, suffering all the exposures and hardships and perils incident to such a life, and after being honorably discharged, was killed in the customs department of New York City while in the discharge of his duty as a messenger in running an elevator that the Government officials knew was out of order, and which was beyond control from being out of repair, and that crushed him to death without any fault or neglect on his part. By this accident a deserving man and servant of the Government lost his life, and his widow is left destitute with a helpless family to support. The sympathies of all who know the circumstances of the case are excited in behalf of this poor widow and the fatherless children, and this committee, after an examination of the case, would gladly recommend her request to the favorable consideration of Congress, if it could be made consistent with their past action and had any foundation or warrant in precedents. It has been the uniform practice of Congress to refuse pensions to those who have received injuries in the civil service of the Government, or to allow pensions to the widow or heirs of those whose life has been lost in the said service. It is maintained that to establish such a precedent would cause the door to be opened to numberless cases of similar character, and thereby swell the pension list to an extent that would be unbearable to the tax-payers of the country. Yet there are many cases, like the one under consideration, that would seem to warrant a relaxation of the rule. Still the admission of one, no matter how meritorious, would be an argument and a justification for the admission of thousands of others without the same merit, but who would press their claims on the basis of precedents established. Your committee are of the opinion, for the reasons stated, that the petition should not be granted, and therefore ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the case, and recommend that the bill do lie on the table.

